

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 069524

R 180625Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8549

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 853

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: OUTLOOK FOR CONTINUATION OF FINNISH COALITION GOVERNMENT DIMS

REF: HELSINKI 817

1. ALTHOUGH THE PARTNERS IN PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT HAVE SET UP A MINISTERIAL GROUP TO TRY TO RESOLVE INTERNAL DISPUTE BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND CENTER PARTY ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, THE OUTLOOK FOR THE CONTINUATION IN OFFICE OF THIS GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIM.

2. LOCAL POLITICAL CIRCLES NOW SEEM TO OPERATE ON THE BASIS THAT SOLUTION TO INTERNAL DIFFERENCES WILL NOT BE FOUND, AND THAT GOVERNMENT IN EARLY MAY WILL SUBMIT ITS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED SCENARIO CALLS FOR KEKKONEN THEN TO DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT AND FOR ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 17-18. KEKKONEN IS ALSO
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EXPECTED TO ASK MAYOR OF HELSINKI TEUVO AURA TO FORM

INTERIM NON-POLITICAL "EXPERTS" GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD BE IN OFFICE UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED AFTER ELECTIONS. AURA HAS PERFORMED THIS ROLE TWICE BEFORE, IN 1970 AND 1971-72.

3. THE CENTER PARTY IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE ELECTIONS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. FEBRUARY GALLUP POLL INDICATES THAT IF ELECTIONS WERE TO BE HELD NOW CENTER PARTY WOULD GAIN 9-11 SEATS. THIS PROSPECT IS CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN CENTER PARTY RELUCTANCE TO CONTINUE IN PRESENT GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH SAME POLL ALSO SHOWS THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD GAIN 2 - 7 SEATS THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS AGAINST ELECTIONS DURING SUMMER TIME VACATION PERIOD AND SO SHORTLY AFTER THEIR PARTY CONGRESS IN EARLY JUNE. AT THE SAME TIME THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS NOW SEEM RESIGNED TO THE FACT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BREAK UP AND ELECTION WILL TAKE PLACE, WHILE CONTINUING TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF NEGOTIATING WITH THEIR COALITION PARTNERS, PROBABLY HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT SOME SOLUTION CAN STILL BE FOUND. BASED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE PRESENT MOOD, THE ODDS APPEAR TO HAVE TURNED AGAINST PRESENT GOVERNMENT CONTINUING BEYOND EARLY MAY.
AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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